



Rec'd 4/7/92
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
COMMANDING OFFICER
USS SPADEFISH (SSN 668)
FPO AE 09587-2348

5750
Ser SSN668-558\197
30 MAR. 1991

OPNAV REPORT SYMBOL 5750-1

From: Commanding Officer, USS SPADEFISH (SSN 668)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH)

Subj: USS SPADEFISH COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1991

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

1. Commanding Officers:

(D) Commander (b)(6) ., USN
Period assigned: 1 Jan 91 to 20 Dec 91

(R) Commander (b)(6) , USN
Period assigned: 21 Dec 91 to 31 Dec 91

2. Discussion and functions of USS SPADEFISH (SSN 668):

a. USS SPADEFISH (SSN 668) is named for a large and fast member of a family of reef dwelling tropical fish. It is an aggressive carnivorous fish characterized by barred black and white markings. USS SPADEFISH (SSN 668) is a nuclear fast attack submarine of the STURGEON class. She is 292 feet long with a beam of 32 feet and a submerged displacement of 4,600 tons. Built at Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company the keel was laid on 21 December 1966 and she was launched on 15 May 1968. On 14 August 1969 she was commissioned and joined Submarine Squadron SIX at Norfolk, Virginia.

b. USS SPADEFISH's primary wartime mission is to detect, track and destroy enemy submarines. In order to achieve this capability she has been equipped with an elaborate sonar system (AN/BQQ-5C), a highly advanced installation capable of searching for and detecting surfaced and submerged targets at great ranges. To use the increased capabilities of her sonar, a modern computer controlled submarine weapon system (CCS MK 1), designed to permit attacking and sinking submarines and surface ships at great distances has been installed. The weapons system is capable of firing the latest in the United States' arsenal of submarine launched weapons including the MK 48 Torpedo, THE MK 48 ADCAP Torpedo, and the Tomahawk and Harpoon Cruise Missiles.

c. USS SPADEFISH (SSN 668) combines the endurance and environmental independence of nuclear propulsion with deep submergence, high speed, quietness and the most advanced weapons and electronic capabilities. She and her sister ships are the Navy's most effective antisubmarine weapons.

Enclosure (1)

Subj: USS SPADEFISH COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1991

3. USS SPADEFISH is home ported in Norfolk, Virginia and is attached to Submarine Squadron SIX.

4. Chronology 1991:

In Port Norfolk, Virginia	1 Jan - 7 Jan 91
POM Workup Support for USS JOHN MARSHALL	7 Jan - 11 Jan 91
In Port Norfolk, Virginia	11 Jan - 14 Jan 91
Pre-ORSE Workup	14 Jan - 23 Jan 91
Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination	24 Jan - 25 Jan 91
In Port Norfolk, Virginia	25 Jan - 6 Feb 91
Navy Technical Proficiency Inspection	7 Feb - 8 Feb 91
In Port Norfolk, Virginia	9 Feb - 13 Feb 91
SRA, Norfolk Naval Shipyard	14 Feb - 18 Apr 91
Complete SRA/Battery Change-out	19 Apr - 4 Jun 91
Post SRA Sea Trials	5 Jun - 7 Jun 91
Underway Midshipman Operations	7 Jun - 14 Jun 91
In Port Norfolk, Virginia	15 Jun - 19 Jun 91
Underway ISE/USS PROVIDENCE POM SVCS	20 Jun - 29 Jun 91
In Port Norfolk, Virginia	30 Jun 91
POM Upkeep AS-31/AS-36 Norfolk, Virginia	1 Jul - 30 Jul 91
POM Training Underway	31 Jul - 9 Aug 81
In Port Norfolk, Virginia	10 Aug - 20 Aug 91
POM Certification	20 Aug - 23 Aug 91
In Port Norfolk Virginia	23 Aug - 29 Aug 91
Deployed WESTLANT	30 Aug - 6 Nov 91
In Port Portsmouth, England	6 Aug - 11 Nov 91
Transit Atlantic	11 Aug - 22 Nov 91
Tactical Readiness Exercise	23 Aug - 26 Nov 91
In Port Norfolk Virginia	27 Nov - 31 Dec 91

5. Narrative:

a. USS SPADEFISH began 1991 providing services for Squadron Six units preparing to deploy. Mid January saw the officers and crew finish final preparations for an Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination (ORSE).

b. Following the successful ORSE, the ship made preparations for a Navy Technical Proficiency Inspection (NTPI). Following the NTPI, March and April were spent devoted to completing a Selected Restricted Availability (SRA) at Norfolk Naval Shipyard. SPADEFISH completed the SRA after returning to Norfolk Naval Base and simultaneously completing a battery replacement.

c. During early June SPADEFISH completed post-SRA sea trials and conducted midshipmen operations off the coast of Florida. June came to a close with SPADEFISH supporting local operations and making preparations to complete a pre-overseas movement (POM)

Subj: USS SPADEFISH COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1991

upkeep in July.

d. July and August were spent in a POM upkeep. Extensive maintenance and significant material upgrades were completed as the crew made final preparations for an extended overseas deployment. The final week of August was spent loading the ship for deployment and completing required training to support the tactical utilization of several pieces equipment that was specially installed to support the deployment.

f. On 30 August SPADEFISH departed on a North Atlantic deployment. The deployment was a true test of ship handling and tactical skills of the entire crew. The performance of the entire crew was exceptional and the mission was an overwhelming success.

g. The ship completed the North Atlantic deployment, and while en route to a short port call in Portsmouth, England was involved in a collision with the French fishing vessel LE NOHIC. There was minimal damage to each vessel and there were no personal injuries. SPADEFISH then departed Portsmouth, making a brief stop in the vicinity of Bermuda and completed a Tactical Readiness Exercise (TRE) during the three day transit to Norfolk. TRE went well and SPADEFISH returned to Norfolk with a tired but proven crew. The crew received a two week standdown following the deployment to relax and become reacquainted with family and friends.

h. During December the SPADEFISH was in port. After completing standdown the ship commenced its post deployment upkeep. On 21 December, Commander (b)(6) . turned over command of SPADEFISH to Commander (b)(6) in a Change of Command Ceremony conducted at the Norfolk Naval Station. Following the Change of Command the remainder of December was spent enjoying the Christmas holidays, continuing the upkeep, and making preparations for another overseas deployment scheduled for early March.

(b)(6)

Copy to:
COMSUBRON SIX